14. The possibility should be examined to establish committees at the national level for investigating occupations hazardous to working children;

15. Officials of labour and factory inspectorates need training for proper enforcement of child labour legislation;

16. Since children are not covered by social security, their work accidents are not reported; ILO should encourage member countries to collect statistics on work accidents of children; legislation should oblige employers to compensate for injuries and illness of working children;

17. Bonded child labour was identified as an area of priority due to its intrinsic and multiple hazards;

18. Amongst the more general measures that should be taken to protect children from hazards associated with work, the following were suggested-Medical monitoring and assistance, immunization, improved nutrition, non-formal education; shelter, counselling, improvement of working and employment conditions, raising of children's awareness on work hazards, and vocational initiation.

19. The need for more awareness raising on the hazards to health and safety of working children was stressed and it was suggested, amongst other measures, that media should be widely used.

Export potential of Indian agricultural products

*20. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's assessment about the export potential of Indian agricultural products, both raw and processed, in the world market;

(b) what target has been kept in view, in terms of export earnings with respect to these products, for the ensuing year 1993-94, while formulating the Exim Policy announced on March 31, 1993; and

(c) what specific steps are contemplated to make Indian agriculture export oriented as distinct from mere self sustaining one, including the creation of food preservation and food processing capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) to (c) India has a natural comparative advantage in agricultural exports because of our lower import needs, reasonable labour costs and our diverse agro-climatic conditions. India exports a wide variety of agricultural commodities like spices, suger, cashew, rice, fruits and vegitables, processed foods, products of fruits and vegetables, tobacco, etc.

Government have taken various steps to create an environment which is fevourable to exports, including export of agricultural products and processed foods from the country. Such measures include the exchange rate adjustments, the introduction of a unified exchange rate, the expension of the definition of 'manufacture' and 'capital goods' in the EXIM Policy to include agricultural and allied activities simplification in compulsory pre-shipment inspection procedures, lowering of customs duties on capital goods and inputs, assured availability of export credit on softer terms and the extension of the benefits of 100% EOU Scheme to the exporters in the agricultural sector, who export atleast 50% of their turnover.

It is the policy of the Government to promote export of agricultural commodi-

ties in such a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected. Subject to this criteria, the targets for export of agricultural and allied commodities during 1993-94 has been fixed at US $ 225.5 million.

Regular inspection of BIS certified goods

1. V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the goods in the market certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards are regularly inspected to verify the maintenance of standard;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected in 1991-92 for not maintaining the standard so certified; and

(c) the number of cases in respect of which action has so far been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To ensure that the licensees maintain the BIS prescribed standards, the BIS has an established surveillance system the major elements of which include (i) drawal of samples from the factory for testing (ii) drawal of samples from the market for testing (iii) investigation of complaints from the consumers and (iv) feedback from the organised consumers on BIS Certified products.

During 1991-92, 61 licences were cancelled for not maintaining the Standard prescribed by BIS.

Distribution of Essential Commodities to Rajasthan and Orissa

2. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2295 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1993 and state :

(a) what is the monthly quota fixed for various essential commodities distributed through PDS for the States of Rajasthan and Orissa, State-wise and Commodity-wise at present;

(b) what is the actual release of quota to these State Governments, month-wise and item-wise during the last four months upto March, 1993;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a shortfall in quota for Rajasthan and Orissa particularly in Kalahandi area, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government to meet the recent requirements of the State Government's of Rajasthan and Orissa particularly where people are dying due to starvation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The allocation and lifting of wheat, rice, kerosene, imported edible oil and levy sugar to Rajasthan and Orissa from November, 1992 to February, 1993 and allocation for the month of March, 1993 are given Annexures I and II. [*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annexure No. 1].

(c) and (d) Allocations of PDS items are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirements of any State or U.T. Sub-allocations within the State are decided by the State Governments. The Governments of Rajasthan and Orissa have been given additional allocation of foodgrain with effect from 1st June, 1992 for exclusive distribution in areas covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). Rajasthan is receiving 26500 tonnes of wheat and Orissa received 13750 tonnes of rice per month